

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-06 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5521

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMNR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T PARIS 32183

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, NATO, FR

SUBJECG: FRENCH REACTION TO NATO MINISTERIAL

1. SUMMARY ACCORDING TO SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL, FRENCH

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ATTITUDES ON KEY SUBJECTS RELATED TO NATO AND US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED AFTER NATO MINISTERIAL.

FRENCH STILL SEE FUTURE OF EUROPE'S DEFENSES RESTING
ON NATION-STATE FOR TIME BEING. END SUMMARY.

2. SCHRICKE (QUAI CHIEF OF PACTES ET DESARMAMENT) TOLD US
DECEMBER 14 THAT NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD CHANGED NOTHING
IN TERMS OF US-GOF DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN NATO. HE PRAISED
BOTH SECRETARY'S STATEMENT AND HIS COMMENTS REGARDING AGREEMENT
ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR, SAYING THAT SECRETARY'S
PRESENTATIONS WERE LUCID, INTELLIGENT EXPOSITION OF US
VIEWS. FRENCH, HOWEVER, REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT MEANING
OF US-SOVIET AGREEMENT IN TERMS OF US INTENTIONS REGARDING
DEFENSE OF EUROPE. SCHRICKE ADDED THAT FRENCH REJECTED MAJOR
POINT WHICH US SEEMED TO BE MAKING AT MINISTERIAL AND LATER
IN LONDON : I.E., NEED FOR EUROPEANS TO CONSULT WITH US ON
ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES, WITHIN OUR OUTSIDE OF NATO AREA.
SCHRICKE WONDERED HOW US WOULD APPLY PRINCIPLE OF CONSULTATION
TO US ACTIONS OF JUNE 22 AND OCTOBER 24-25? WAS US EXPECTING
MORE FROM ITS ALLIES THAN IT WAS WILLING TO GRANT TO THEM?
WE POINTED OUT THAT SERIOUS PROBLEM CONFRONTING US, WESTERN
EUROPE AND OTHER DEMOCRACIES REGARDING ENERGY CRISIS WAS
EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR LAUNCHING NEW CONSULTATIVE EFFORT
AS SUGGESTED BY SECRETARY IN LONDON SPEECH. MOREOVER, THIS
WOULD BE CLEAR CASE WHERE CANDID CONSULTATIONS WOULD
ENABLE EACH NATION TO OBTAIN BETTER FINAL RESULT THAN
WE COULD ACHIEVE INDIVIDUALLY. SCHRICKE REPLIED THAT
GOF RESPONSE ON ENERGY ACTION GROUP WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT OUT-
COME OF COPENHAGEN SUMMIT.

3. SCHRICKE SAID FRENCH CONTINUE TO SEE ELEMENTS OF CONFLICT
BETWEEN EUROPEAN UNITY AND ATLANTIC UNITY. FRANCE WILL CHANNEL
ITS EFFORTS INTO FORMER, WHILE REMAINING LOYAL TO ITS
CONCEPT OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. HE ADDED THAT FRENCH
OPPOSITION TO MBFR AND FINANCIAL BUFDENSHARING ARRANGEMENTS
REMAINED FIRM.

4. ON EUROPEAN DEFENSE, SCHRICKE SAID FRENCH DID NOT HAVE
ANY MAGIC FORMULA FOR NEW FORMS OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE
COOPERATION. HE ALLUDED TO JOBERT'S REPEATED REFERENCES
TO "INCREASINGLY DISTINCT CHARACTER" OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE,

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AND NOTED FRENCH INITIATIVES REGARDING EUROPE'S DEFENSE
SHOULD BE VIEWED IN TERMS OF FUNDAMENTAL ROLE OF NATION
STATE. DEFENSE, SAID SCHRICKE, CAN ONLY BE FOUNDED ON
WILL AND DETERMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL NATION. EFFORTS TO
INTEGRATE NATIONAL DEFENSE (E.G., NATO'S INTEGRATED MILITARY
ORGANIZATION) ONLY WEAKEN OVERALL EUROPEAN DEFENSE BY
SUBMERGING NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE THAT IS FUNDAMENTAL
REQUIREMENT FOR EFFECTIVE DEFENSE EFFORT. BEFORE EUROPE
CAN HAVE EUROPEAN DEFENSE, HE ADDED, IT MUST ACHIEVE
EUROPEAN POLICY--AND THAT IS LONG WAY OFF.

5. COMMENT: SCHRICKE ACCOMPANIED JOBERT TO THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING AND PARTICIPATED IN MINISTERIAL SESSIONS. WE BELIEVE HE IS ACCURATELY PROTRAYING CURRENT QUAI ATTITUDES. HIS COMMENTS ON FRANCE'S NATIONALISTIC APPROACH TO EUROPEAN DEFENSE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTING AND SUGGEST THAT APPEARANCE OF GOF MOVEMENT ON SUBJECT OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION MAY BE TACTICAL PLOY RATHER THAN FUNDAMENTAL SUBSTANTIVE SHIFT IN FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY.IRWIN

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